

vasculature 12, with the filter device 30 in compressed low profile condition, until the distal end 22 of the guide wire 16 reaches the position distal to the interventional procedure site 14. The balloon catheter 70 is then inserted over the guide wire 16 and through the patient's vasculature 14 until it engages the proximal section 108 of the engageable element 68. Upon pushing the balloon catheter 70 further in the distal direction, the proximal section 108 of the engageable element 68 moves distally into the distal section 106 thereof which is secured to the guide wire 16, causing the struts 102 of the filter device 30 to move radially outwardly along the guiding portion 110 of the proximal section 108. Upon sufficient radially-outward movement of the struts 102 along the guiding surface 110 of the proximal section 108 of the engageable element 68, the struts release from engagement with the distal section 106, releasing the filter device 30 from engagement therewith, and enabling the spring 92 to compress, resulting in expansion and deployment of the filter device 30 for capturing embolic material 32.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please add claim 27, as follows:

27. (new) The method of claim 25, wherein the engaging element comprises an inner tube, adapted to extend about the guide wire, and including a distal end which is adapted to be extendable into the filter device, and which includes at least one slot therein opening in the distal direction for receiving the tab member therein, and wherein engaging further comprises engaging the slot in the inner tube with the tab member.